Boston: September 9, 1833.

Dear friend,

Some days before receiving your letter, I had a conversation with Wendell, in the Railroad cars, as to the expediency of George Thompson's revisiting this Country as an Anti-Slavery lecturer; and told Wendell, that although my own impressions would be opposed to it, I should of-course acquiesce, willingly, in the Society's so employing him, if they thought proper; inasmuch as I never would differ, unkindly, from the other friends of the cause, with respect to the choice of measures.

While therefore I cannot find fault with those who would promote your object, and would not be over-confident of my own judgment, I yet do not feel, in respect to his coming, that assurance of its benefit to the cause which would induce me to give freely, for that purpose.

My doubts, mainly touch these points: 1. When Mr. Thompson first came to this country, I considered his labors to be of doubtful advantage. Doing full justice to his singleness of purpose, and ability as a speaker, I yet thought that the question discussed involved pretty delicate political considerations. And although I had no objection to hearing the truth from any quarter, I yet doubted whether he did not give occasion to more prejudice than he dispelled. Still, in the attitude our Society then maintained, our action was almost exclusively moral; addressing itself to our individual consciences, as men; - more than as citizens: - and we had a right to reply to all gainsayers, that Mr. Thompson had as good a right to appeal to us, on a purely religious and moral question, as Dr. Judson has, to preach Christianity to the subjects of the King of Ava. But now our Society, and the leading friends with whom Mr. Thompson would be identified, have taken up a new line of action, and avow themselves, and are chiefly known to the nation, as aiming to disband the Union and overthrow the government. You will understand that I do not blame them for this: they act according to their light; - perhaps a clearer light than mine, although I don't see it. Now I do not say, positively, that Mr. Thompson, if here, would, formally & expressly, preach disunion; - though I think it highly likely: - but his position, on this subject, would be perfectly understood. He would of course closely fraternise with our principal disunionists; - nor, loving and

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Esteeming them, as I do, could I wish him to do otherwise. But I think it a false position for him and for the cause. I might be very willing to pay a Missionary, to preach Christianity in Siam, - although well assured that its reception would work the most important political changes in that Kingdom; but I should greatly hesitate about sending thither an emissary, whose primary purpose were to induce the people to upset their government, - even though it were, as a first step, towards the introduction of christianity. And my reluctance to such a measure would certainly not be weakened by my knowledge, that at least nineteen twentieths of the people were, whether right or wrong, devotedly attached to the existing government. The revolutionary party, in such a State would, it seems to me, be acting unwisely to send for a "despised outside barbarian" to help them, with any moral influence, in their attacks upon the government. - Dropping comparisons, however, I would say, in one word, that I cannot but conclude that, in the present state of the controversy, W. Thompson would be likely to harm - more than help us.

2. I might, perhaps, as well stop here, - because I have ~~no~~ gained no right to advise; but you will not take it amiss if I should say to you, that many of our speakers appear to me to have more weight & adaptation to our American audiences than W. Thompson: setting aside, wholly, his position, as an Englishman. I heard him, two or three times, during his last visit, and saw several others who went to his lectures and meetings with the most friendly prepossessions: I would instance, among several others, T. W. Higginson, of Worcester, and John King. I think, that with these, and, generally, with the best judges of speaking, there was a very considerable disappointment, which I shared with them. He talked a great deal of himself; he amplified the common places of our cause at great length; but I did not find much depth or maturity of thought, nor even force or elegance of diction. He spoke rhetorically of the wrongs of the Negro, and the crime of imbruting the immortal soul; but I did not find that he handled, vigorously, the topics the or difficulties which were haunting the American mind. In briefer terms, he did not (like Garrison & Phillips,) hit the nail on the head: at least, so it seemed to me.

I have said, dear Anna, enough, - possibly too much - on this topic: but pray remember, that your kind letter gave me plenary indulgence, in advance.

I feel happy and grateful for what you tell me about our beloved Lucia's health. I have no doubt of Anna's writing to her and Emma, very soon. She has been greatly engaged, with visits from her Southern relations. Give my love to the dear girls, until they hear from us more particularly; and believe me, dear Anna, with all frankness, your sincere friend.

Ellis Gray Loring.

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